

## New Fiction

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the morals of those who like to call themselves the younger generation—boys and girls, let us say, under thirty. As the title indicates, it is a case of the breaking down of the barriers that used to fence in the fold—or were supposed to—more tightly than modern "emancipated" conditions do. It is supererogatory to say that it is a finely done novel; Mr. Nicholson is a master craftsman in his field.

But in this book he challenges comparison with the recent output of half a dozen or so of the interpreters of this younger generation from their own ranks and, possibly, some of their work is needed as a corrective to the views of the elders. It would, for instance, be curiously interesting to imagine how some of the cleverer of the new writers would have handled this plot. One wonders whether their attitude toward the elderly "Tommy" of the story, and his parties at his attractive

planned novel like this, the most satisfying and appealing roles are given to the minor characters. Grace's old father, courageously working on in his little shop after his ruin and humiliation at the hands of his former friend and partner, the non-appearing "villain" of the piece, is worthy of a high place in the best of current literature. And Ethel, the older sister, viciously pious, might also have stepped out of a minor rank among Thackeray's unprepossessing females. So, also, the sub-hero, John Moore, has a wholesomeness and reality about him that atones for much of the questionable quality of some of the people. HENRY WALKER.

SANDS. By Olive Wadsley. Dodd, Mead & Co.

**O**LIVE WADSLEY is of the glucose school of novelists. She feeds but she does not nourish, which explains her popularity. She has taken all of the conventional settings, Paris, London, Cairo and the unfathomable desert; she has assumed the familiar characters—the



Meredith Nicholson, author of "Broken Barriers."

"shack," would be as complacent or kindly as Mr. Nicholson's. Would they have brought the heroine and her married lover together in quite the manner that he does? It is a very telling scene and kept quite inoffensive, but, somehow, it seems to date back a bit, in spite of itself, instead of being quite of to-day. And some readers may feel that the book holds a sort of sanction for the breaking down of any further barriers that may still remain—which is, perhaps curiously, not at all the impression one gets from the young writers themselves.

The story is that of a young girl, of course of Indianapolis, who is suddenly obliged to give up the remainder of her college course, as her father has lost his income. She goes into a store and in time is caught up in the whirl of a rather rapid set, and falls in love with a married man, to the usual triangular result. As so often happens, conveniently, in these fictional triangles the superfluous wife dies in timely manner and a cloak of respectable matrimony is hastily thrown over the affair. One may hope that any young folk who find encouragement to go and do likewise, after reading Grace's story, may be thus easily rid of encumbrances; it is pleasanter than the commoner divorce proceedings.

As not infrequently happens in a largely

wife who has found marriage a failure, the fascinating Oriental with an Oxford schooling, the athletic, cultured Continental, who speaks all languages with ease, has tried love and found it wanting, until he meets the heroine, and then he wants only her, and the side characters, who are all hopelessly rich, noble and powerful, and with all of the stock situations, international intrigue, a fight over a bridge game, the abduction of the heroine into the desert, the rescue at the last moment and the convenient death of the husband, leaving her free to marry, Miss Wadsley manufactures her novel.

If you like the "frenzy of primitive emotions" and "half cynical aphorisms" and swift action which is predominantly melodrama; if you enjoy the Sheikhish in literature "Sands" will interest you. There are many delightful spots, one in particular, when Caro is still a girl she sees Sarah Bernhardt in "The Lady of the Camillias." She is so impressed by the great performance she cannot sleep. Next day she goes to the station with a bunch of violets, presents them timidly to the actress, who kisses the flowers and gives back a handful to Caro for remembrance.

In spite of the usual qualities of the book

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Is A. S. M. Hutchinson

## The Successor of Dickens?

The Minneapolis Tribune says: "The successor to Charles Dickens, often talked about but never arriving, seems at last to have appeared in the person of Arthur Stuart Menteth Hutchinson, author of 'If Winter Comes,' whose new novel 'This Freedom' has just been published.

"When 'If Winter Comes' was making its great popular success, the author's work was frequently compared to that of Dickens; in 'This Freedom,' the likenesses are even more apparent. The extent to which Mr. Hutchinson possesses all of Dickens' faults as well as all, or nearly all, of his virtues is simply amazing."

## Or Harold Bell Wright?

The Chicago Evening Post says: "It may sell as well as Harold Bell Wright, for as far as the thesis is concerned, and as far as the latter half of the book is concerned, Mr. Hutchinson has achieved just about the same degree of competence, both as a thinker on topics of the day and as a writer, that our own Mr. Wright has proved to us is most likely to appeal to the minds of the big majority."

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